

TOC H JOURNAL

NEWS VIEWS AND IDEAS

DECEMBER 1961



PUBLISHED BY TOC H AT FIFTEEN
TRINITY SQUARE — LONDON E03



NINEPENCE

ADVANCE NOTICE

On Tuesday, February 13, the Stock Exchange Dramatic and Operatic Society is presenting

'GUYS and DOLLS'

at the Scala Theatre, London, for Toc H. This fast-moving musical, based on Damon Runyon characters, promises to be another entertaining and successful evening for the benefit of the new Mark III fund.

Enquiries to Ken Rogers at Headquarters.

'Concerning Toc H'

All readers are invited to submit original articles for publication in the JOURNAL. As long as it has a bearing on Toc H, the subject matter can be serious or light-hearted, factual or imaginary, short or long (with a maximum of approximately 500 words).

All entries for the Competition, which should be marked 'Concerning Toc H', will be considered by an Editorial Panel, and those deemed suitable given a distinguishing mark ★ and printed. Every Branch and group is asked to spend a little time each month to consider the articles and decide which has the greatest interest for them. Their decision to be noted by a 'Scorer' appointed for the year.

At the conclusion of the Competition, the 'Scorer' will ask the other members to compare the eleven articles they have chosen and to decide by vote which they consider the most outstanding. On the basis of Branch and group votes received, the writer of the highest-placed entry will be entitled to nominate any Branch or group he chooses to receive an award of £5 5s. Od. for the unit funds.

Ourselves

The Toc H JOURNAL is published monthly eleven times a year. The April issue is a double number and there is no August number. A subscription can commence with any issue and costs only 9s. for a complete year.

N.B.—A price concession to 7s. 6d. per dozen, post free, is made to Branches ordering a minimum of one dozen copies.

THIRTY-NINTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

TOC H JOURNAL



DECEMBER 1961

Letters and articles are welcomed and are
printed as individual points of view only

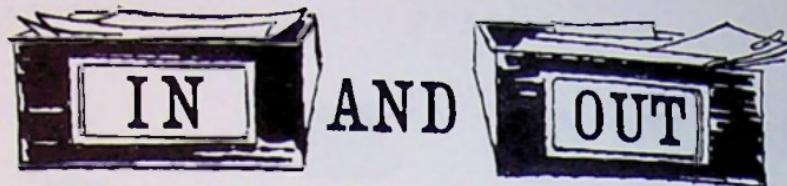
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*Entry for the Competition 'Concerning Toc H', see Cover notice

COVER PICTURE: A Christmas Crib placed in the Market House by Ilminster Branch. The figures were made by pupils of Ilminster County Secondary School.

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notes & comment

Readers' Help

IN COMMON WITH MOST OTHER PUBLICATIONS the JOURNAL is finding it increasingly difficult to sail on an even keel through the rising tide of production costs and increased postal charges. But the struggle is by no means one-sided, and a rise in circulation figures would greatly help to offset present costs. Is it asking too much for every member to buy his own copy of the JOURNAL, either through his own Branch or by direct subscription? Thanks to a good many Builder subscribers, our circulation figures are healthy; but the JOURNAL would greatly benefit from a considerable increase in both Branch and individual subscriptions.

Space for Advertising

THE TIME IS ALSO RIPE FOR AN INCREASE IN the number of advertisers' announcements. No national newspaper and very few periodicals can today expect to pay their way without an appreciable amount of advertising matter—and this JOURNAL is no exception. To maintain and improve on our present position we now need more support in this direction and any help from readers who can put us in touch with potential advertisers will be most welcome.

Remembrance Parade

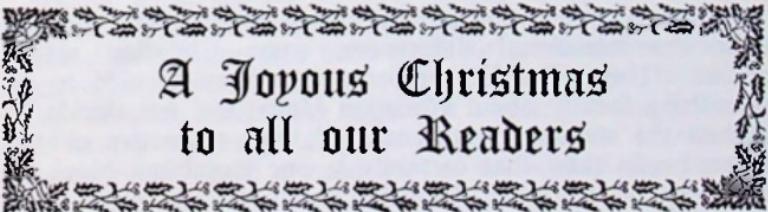
A YEAR AGO ON THIS PAGE READERS WERE TOLD how the Toc H contingent at the Cenotaph Service held in Whitehall on Remembrance Sunday had dwindled to a bare handful of members. This year we are happy to report a big increase in the number attending. In addition to those from London and the Home Counties, the 113 members on the parade included many from Branches as far away as Prestatyn and Wimborne, Southampton, Bilston, Staffordshire, Hathern in Leicestershire and Bradwell in Derbyshire. Marching alongside ex-Service members of one or both wars were also a number of younger National Servicemen. Their presence was an effective testimony to a spirit born in the adversity of war now transmitted to another generation. It is hoped that there will be more of them who will be sharing in future parades. After the service many members were welcome guests at the Headquarters of the Queen's Westminster Rifles, the Regiment which has had links with Toc H since the earliest days of Talbot House in 1915.

Birthday Booklet

"THE YEAR OF 1939 OPENED ON A DISMAL NOTE with the Treasurer reporting that there were no funds in the bank. However, a couple of jobs were undertaken, namely collecting books and magazines for sailors' homes, also the raising of money for leprosy Relief." This extract occurs quite early in *The History of Calne Toc H*, a booklet produced by Calne Branch, in Wiltshire, to celebrate its twenty-first birthday. A diary of events, often confined to a single concise sentence, carries the story of the Branch's ups and downs through the days of war and into the testing post-war years. With a light touch the tale is told of happenings great and small, including how a fire broke out in their meeting place, "...in an area round the stove. But for the prompt action of the Jobmaster, H. Webb, a very serious fire may have developed" and the added comment. "So it looks as though we have Herbie to thank that we still meet in Wood Street." Apart from being very well printed the booklet is indeed a human document and a tribute to the initiative and stickability of Calne members. We wish them many happy returns and many more birthdays to come.

Towards Unity

A RECENT SURVEY IN SHEFFIELD, UNDERTAKEN for the World Council of Churches, of two pairs of local churches, showed that it was not—as was sometimes thought—the people in the pews who were "holding back the ecumenical movement". Unexpected agreement was sometimes revealed between Anglicans and Methodists on many religious issues. Little difference was observed on sermons or on Church music. Sermons should teach and interpret scripture. Singing should be competent. Several Methodists wanted to sing Anglican Psalms; several Anglicans envied Methodist congregational singing. On the other hand, an Anglican woman was not at all happy over the Methodist attitude to temperance; while a seventeen-year-old Anglican felt Methodist services were "less reverent and holy". Another Anglican woman "could not envisage a united Church on a give-and-take basis. It is significant that more than half the Anglicans interviewed had no objections to intercommunion with Methodists, and that many of the Methodists were willing to accept bishops, at least if the method of their election was reformed.



A Joyous Christmas
to all our Readers

Step towards Unity

BILL HARDY

AS PART of their Keynote Project concerned with Christian Unity, the TADCASTER Branch decided to invite the local vicar, the Rev. D. Burnett, and the Methodist minister, the Rev. R. Ball, to a Branch meeting to discuss this vital subject. The outcome of the discussion was that the Branch should do something to bring the churches in Tadcaster together, in a practical way, to help other people in need.

It was decided to organise a house-to-house collection for the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief. A letter was printed explaining the appeal, signed by all Christian leaders in the town, including the Roman Catholic priest, the Salvation Army captain, the Methodist minister and the Anglican vicar.

The letters were then distributed by Girl Guides and Boy Scouts. Collectors were recruited from members of various organisations in the town and every house in Tadcaster visited. Thanks to the initiative shown by Tadcaster Branch and the combined operation of all the Christian churches and allied bodies, a sum of more than £100 was handed over.

As post-script to this exploit, here is an extract from the Vicar's letter which appeared in the Parish Magazine:

"I would like to tell you how this collection came to be sponsored by our local Branch of Toc H. Toc H, as you know, is interdenominational and at one of their meetings the members were discussing the question of Christian Unity. They decided that they ought to do something about this in their own district—and this House-to-House Collection is the direct result of that discussion. I think there is a sermon in that result."

"When Christian people decide to act together despite their denominational differences, some Christian action ensues. These Toc H members, when they decided to do something locally about Christian Unity, did not decide to discuss the merits and demerits of their respective church hymn books (and that certainly is one stumbling block in the way of Christian Unity!), or to discuss why some

Christian Churches have bishops and others do not. They said 'Let us join together in some practical Christian action'. Now I mention this because, when the month is out and the house-to-house collection is a thing of the past, I do not want to see the idea that started all this to fizzle out too. All Christian people in Tadcaster should seriously contemplate how we can keep this 'togetherness' alive.

"I am not suggesting that we should be forever organising house-to-house collections for charitable objects, but we should keep on 'doing' something for Christian Unity. I would like to see, for example, a group of people from all our churches meeting together regularly so that we can pray together, study together, and discuss our religion. I hope that when this can be arranged there will be many of like mind who will regard this as one of the most important things to be done by those who profess to be a Christian."

Rural Units

GEORGE LEE
Lincolnshire Area Secretary

"THE COUNTRYSIDE never changes" . . . so says the town or city dweller who only sees it in terms of ploughed fields, hedgerows or cattle idly grazing. "It's easier to build Toc H in the rural areas" . . . so says the town dweller again. Both are completely false pictures, and an unfair reflection upon those who build and maintain units of the Family in the countryside. Whilst it is true, unfortunately, that our main pattern of living these days is set in the highly industrialised areas, it pays us to remember that it was, and still is, in the rural areas that our rich heritage has been, and still is being evolved.

Toc H is in danger of only seeing units in terms of town or city units, hence at Central Council and in other places consideration has been given to minimum numerical requirements for new units. This overlooks the fact that village or other rural units cannot be assessed in this fashion, each having an entity of its own, and until one *knows* the community in which a rural unit is established one cannot assess them on numbers alone.

At Maltby-le-Marsh, a village of only 200 souls, the local Branch has 17 members, one to be initiated soon, and one probationer which must certainly give it one of the highest percentages of male population in a Branch anywhere throughout the Movement. Another village farther South is that of Quadring. Here, one of the most popular figures is that of Fred Hemstock. He is a member of the local Branch, as is his son Douglas. Douglas's wife is a member of the Women's Association as is his sister Jean, whilst Jean's husband Keith is a probationer of Quadring. Going North we find the village of Grainthorpe where some years ago it was considered that the village was perhaps too small to support a unit, yet they now have nine members and one probationer.

Such cases might seem to indicate that it is easier to build Toc H in the rural communities, yet anyone with even the slightest knowledge of the changes that have taken place in community life in recent years in particular will know that the record of rural units indicates the true spirit of "Building Bravely".

Much that is of tremendous value to the whole life of Toc H will be lost if the pattern for rural units is set by those of town and city units, amongst which there is usually a scattering of 'foreigners' anyway. The village and rural units continue the true spirit of community living against all the changes that have taken place and seem inevitably to face them in the coming years. Comparisons are odious at any time. One of the worst examples is that of attempting to compare rural units with those in town or city—and yet they are all part of the one great Family.



The World Chain of Light

Dor Knap, the Toc H Centre in the Cotswolds, is the starting point for this year's World Chain of Light. Branch observances will be at 9 p.m. in places west of Dor Knap to the Pacific on December 11 and from New Zealand westward to Dor Knap on December 12. During the twenty-four hours a continuous vigil will be maintained in the chapel at Dor Knap.



Encounter in Flanders

'COLCHESTER'

THE PALE STONE of the Menin Gate reflected the warm light of the mid-morning sun, the breeze gently rocked the glowing heads of the scarlet poppies, a drift of daisies made a carpet for them, with here and there a scattering of pale gilt flowers of ragwort and charlock.

On the right of the road, behind a mellowing wall, neat ranks and files of small black crosses; above them all, the Cross in mourning. An atmosphere of gloom and depression descends upon the visitor who enters the narrow gate. Alas for the fallen of the Fatherland—you deserve a little more, considering the price you paid.

Back there, on the left, another little spot that is forever England. There are no walls but red roses, with neat white headstones and overhead, the waving branches of new-grown trees, around it all the aura of love and careful solicitude. Now through the arches of the Menin Gate, and reading slowly and carefully—Regiments—Officers—N.C.O.s and columns of names of private soldiers, up the steps and out upon the ramparts of Ypres. The quiet waters of the canal lead round to the Lille Gate. Follow this hedge, walk round to the left, and here is the most peaceful place, created from the smoking furnace that conceived it; among his comrades lies that beloved son of an English family, with the simple words "Mum, Dad, Sisters and Brother" carved into the stone which is distinctly his.

Each generation has its poets to tell of the glories of the Men of England, who came from her hamlets, villages, cities and shires to honour a pledge and, in so doing, yield to the final sacrifice that human strife demands, and when the battle is done, comrades shall rest forever among the yews, the junipers and beeches, with smooth grass to cover their forms, with the quiet waters at their feet.

To Vlamertinge or Dickebusche? Past the new tower of the Massive Cloth Hall, the rebuilt cathedral, the Memorial Church of St. George and new centres of trade and business. Along the *pavé* road the fruit vendor with a harnessed dog beneath his hand-cart revives an ancient memory, when dogs hauled carts along these same ways.

The road to Vlamertinge and Poperinge has been described by an air observer as "a long winding snake"; be that as it may, this snake has fangs, because in Flanders the foot-paths are now cycle tracks and this includes motorised cycles of all kinds. For the walker there is nowhere else to be and one can only hope that all these distant relatives of the current world motor cycle champion have good eyesight!

At last a friendly ditch with a grassy bank, a tree to lean upon and some shelter from a skittish wind, the ideal place to dispose of a picnic snack which should still be in a plastic bag. Unexpectedly, a different sound comes with the wind and turning quietly round, I saw a beautiful mare inspecting me with intelligent interest. I walked slowly towards her and halted about three feet away from the wire fence. Her head reached out and almost touched my face as she drew a long breath. I breathed gently into her right nostril and thus we were introduced.

"Good afternoon, Princess," I said. She slowly closed one eye and allowed her lower lip to droop slightly. I took my time and waited for a reply. Suddenly she swung her massive head along her golden flank, disturbing a cluster of noisy flies, which rose like miniature vultures, then settled upon her shoulder. "As one East Anglian to another, please accept my greetings," I stammered. The Princess maintained a dignified silence. "Why, of course," I reflected. "you are a Flemish citizen by adoption and we have the old difficulty of the barrier of language. I have no Flemish, you probably have no English, so we have reached stalemate already."

The Princess had been looking at the road during the latter part of my remarks, then she turned to me and said. "No one but an Englishman would walk along that road" then after a pause, "and there have been many." Delighted to find that we had a common language, I too stared at the road and the implication in her remark struck me that we were going to have a fairly lengthy conversation, and an interesting one at that.

"I know what you mean, Princess," I replied. "My father and his friends came along this road, many times; most of them are still there, you know." "True," she said, "true, many of them are still here, right from the time my grand-

mother came from Suffolk." Then, glancing away, she enquired from me how I came to be walking along the road, the road from Ypres to Vlamertinge, and where had I come from? "Yesterday," I replied, "I left England, to do what so many others have done, to walk across the old ground of battle, across no-man's land, to go through the Menin Gate and out of Ypres by that same route—along this road to Vlamertinge and Poperinge, this is the way they came so many years ago. Princess, and here I am, chatting to a beautiful Suffolk Punch."

She looked at me carefully and, noting that I was fidgeting with a plastic bag, she moved one ear sideways and the other carried a suggestion of enquiry. "By the way, Princess, I have some home-made cake, would you care to try some?" "Presently, presently," she said. "Perhaps I should explain that I am one quarter Belgian Percheron, by my grandfather, and threequarters British, but I remember best my father, who was a really magnificent Suffolk. I am glad to say he returned to England and went to live at Quainton, where he adopted a Vice-Admiral and went to work on his estate. My father's name was Zeebrugge and his stable companion was a little American cob who had fourteen wounds while she served here. After she recovered, she did a little work on the farm too, just to help Zeebrugge, you understand."

She closed her eyes for a moment and said, "If I may, I'll try a little of that cake you mentioned, since I am waiting for Madame to collect her linen before I move on to the pasture." "Tell me about your grandmother, please, Princess, while you are waiting," and at that she appeared to be very deep in thought. "Yes," she said. "I will. She was foaled in a stable at Manningtree and had many relatives there, they all had the same surname but different first names. She was quite young when she came to Ypres and she often told us how a little man from Dunster, in England, whose name is Philip Hill, looked after her and her friends at a place near her home called Ardleigh. Philip Hill is so small, she said, he could hide in the feather of a fetlock. She came here about forty-five years ago and one of her daughters—that was my mother—was foaled on this farm, after all the bother had come to an end, and I was born here too. She told us a number of stories in the evenings when we were gathered together under the trees.

She liked to tell us of another man named Philip, who is very well known in these parts. It appears that he is a little man too; just a quarter of an inch taller than Philip Hill. But there are several other differences—she said that one was as thin as a lath and the other was so tubby, he became known as Tubby. She once had a job hauling some explosives for the Sappers who spent all their spare time digging tunnels. On the way back, she was taken out of the waggon and led by a driver to a spot behind an embankment of earth. On the top of this embankment was a muddy track, which was originally a road. This track crossed a very narrow river and across the river was a brick-built culvert to support the track. Sitting inside the culvert was this man Tubby, with five other men, who were a detachment, and the men had with them a big gun, partly buried in a pit near the culvert.

I ought to explain that during this time a number of people on the top of a hill several miles away were trying very hard to fire some shells into the culvert. These shells were called five-nines, but for various reasons, they seemed unable to get them exactly into the culvert. Eventually, these novelties came to an end, so everyone came out of the culvert and, after they had brushed the earth out of their eyes and ears, they made preparations for a celebration. First of all, they unpacked a little table, which was set up near the gun, then a clean white cover was placed over it, and some small vessels were taken out of a box.

"I think my grandmother had heard about this before, because she didn't seem the least bit surprised, but then, she was a very experienced person and nothing which people did surprised her at all. She saw all the men kneeling upon the ground, their eyes were closed and their hands were folded together like those of children. She said that two butterflies flew like fairies round and round the circle of men, and very high up a lark was singing. No one seemed to notice this, except grandmother. Then she went on to say that she saw each man receive bread which had been resting on the table, then each one drank from a cup which contained wine, as red as blood. By this time, she was taken back to the waggon and the last thing she saw on that field was Tubby kneeling before his little table and five men, still kneeling, giving thanks for the gifts he had provided."

Princess slowly moved her weight from one forefoot to the other, while I put out my hand and touched her on the shoulder. Quietly, I then pointed to the figure of Madame, as she placed her basket on the grass, and commenced gathering her bleached linen. "Thank you, my dear Princess," I murmured, "and how much I wish I could have known her as you did. I see I must leave you now." She turned aside to watch Madame, and remarked, "I think we shall meet again and, when we do, I would very much appreciate another taste of home-made cake, I think it helps to recall memories which I should try to keep in mind."

As I said goodbye to her, I tried very hard to recall the verse of W. B. Morris:

*Beside the graves, at Vlamertinge,
I know where some lie sleeping;
Within that peaceful glebe my feet have strayed,
By fields where poppies marked a path,
'Gainst every footfall meeting,
To starry points to guide where they are laid.*

Toc H Christmas Cards

The response to this year's designs has been very good and a complete sell-out is expected. Card 'A' is oblong.

size $3\frac{3}{4}'' \times 5''$, with Lamp die-stamped in gold on a coloured octagon. Card 'B', $4\frac{1}{8}'' \times 5\frac{13}{16}''$, reproduced here, is printed in colour from the picture made by Don McKenzie at the Toc H T.B. Settlement at Botha's Hill.

Both kinds cost 6s. Od. per dozen, with



'THE CHRISTMAS STORY'

envelopes and are postage free. Stocks are getting low and readers are urged to send in their orders now, together with remittance, to Toc H Publications Department, 15 Trinity Square, London, E.C.3.

Historic Meeting Place

A. R. VOSPER

PLYMOUTH BRANCH made history when they moved their headquarters, in November, 1960, to the oldest and most historic house in Plymouth—and one which has the atmosphere of an ideal Toc H meeting place. It would be difficult to find a more interesting or suitable headquarters for a Toc H Branch than the ancient Prysten House in the centre of the city.

Built by the Priory of Plympton Abbey in the latter part of the XVth Century (there is a record of its existence in 1490) to accommodate the priests who came to officiate in St. Andrew's Church and other neighbouring churches, it has been suggested that this site for the building may have been chosen because here there existed an excellent well, which may still be seen in the south-eastern corner of the building.

After the dissolution of the monasteries the Prysten House fell into disuse for ecclesiastical purposes and according to the historian, R. A. J. Walling, it served during the four centuries that followed a number of secular uses, as a domestic dwelling, warehouse, wine shop, and finally as a bacon factory.

Early in the present century a movement was started to recondition and restore the building. The work has now been carried out and Plymouth possesses in the restored Prysten House a beautiful architectural treasure of great archaeological and historic interest. It is daily open to the public during the summer months and here in the heart of the city the visitor can find a quiet and restful retreat.

Entering the house by the 'Door of Unity' the visitor passes into the Frater Room used in pre-reformation times by the priests as their refectory and common room. It is a beautiful room with a stone mullioned bay window, a handsome stone fireplace and curved oak beams in the roof. The printing room on the top floor is known as the Harmsworth Room and was restored in 1938, and dedicated to the memory of Sir Leicester Harmsworth.

Toc H Plymouth Branch meets in a smaller room adjoining every Monday evening at 8 p.m.

During the Anglo-American War in 1813 a duel was fought in the English Channel between H.M. Brig *Pelican* and the U.S.N. Brig *Argus*, in which the twenty-three-year-old Captain of the *Argus*, William Henry Allen, was severely wounded, and another officer, a midshipman of eighteen, was killed. They were brought into Plymouth, where Allen's leg was amputated in an effort to save his life, but he died and he and the young midshipman were buried in St. Andrew's Church. A memorial stone inscribed with their names and the words "Here Sleep the Brave" was placed over their graves. It later became the custom for Americans to hold an annual service at the graveside on May 30, Memorial Day, in which many Plymouthians also joined.



Western Morning News

Wreaths being laid at the Prysten House by the American Consul and his son on Memorial Day.

Memorial Day services have been held annually at the door which is now known as the 'Door of Unity'.

Toc H members visiting Plymouth should not fail to visit this grand old mansion and the adjoining church of St. Andrew, where Sir Francis Drake gave thanks for his safe return to England after his voyage around the world; where the hearts of Frobisher and Blake are buried; and where the Pilgrim Fathers worshipped before they sailed across the Atlantic to found the New England States.

The Elder Brethren

'With proud thanksgiving . . .'

ABRAHAMS.—On September 22, THOMAS RICHARD ABRAHAMS, aged 83, a member of Market Drayton Branch. Elected 12.10.'53.

BARNES.—On September 25, RONALD BLANCHETT BARNES, aged 55, a member of Aldingbourne Branch. Elected 6.10.'44.

BENNINGTON.—In September, LORENZO BENNINGTON, aged 73, a member of Newport Branch, Isle of Wight. Elected 25.6.'30.

CHALLENGER.—In September, GEORGE HIGHFIELD CHALLENGER, aged 63, a member of Bridlington Branch. Elected 30.11.'44.

COOKE.—Suddenly, on September 23, REGINALD HENRY COOKE, aged 74, a member of Painswick Branch. Elected 16.7.'30.

CUNDEY.—Suddenly, on June 27, WALTER JOSEPH CUNDEY, aged 53, a member of Doncaster Branch. Elected 26.2.'30.

EARP.—On October 4, EDWIN EARP, aged 64, a member of Wolverton Branch. Elected 1.5.'56.

EVERETT.—On August 24, ARTHUR EVERETT, aged 78, a founder member of Ibstock Branch. Elected 3.10.'29.

HUMPHREY.—On October 19, ARTHUR THOMAS LESLIE HUMPHREY, aged 57, a founder member of Cheriton Branch. Elected 1.5.'30.

KNIGHT.—On August 29, GEORGE KNIGHT, aged 52, a Notts. & Derby. Area member. Elected 13.7.'48.

LONGSTAFF.—On October 4, Major FREDERICK V. LONGSTAFF, a Central General member in Victoria, B.C., Canada. Elected December, 1927.

MARRIOTT.—On October 19, LEONARD HENRY MARRIOTT, aged 71, a founder member of Spilsby Branch. Elected 24.11.'28.

MARTIN.—On February 11, JOHN WILSON MARTIN, aged 63, a member of Ayton Branch. Elected 28.4.'59.

PALMER.—On October 18, GORDON KEITH PALMER, aged 26, a member of R.H.H.I. Branch. Elected 20.1.'52.

PARKER.—On October 2, HAROLD EDWIN PARKER, aged 70, a member of Horton Kirby Branch. Elected 6.12.'60.

PERRY.—On August 21, WILFRED CHARLES PERRY, aged 86, a member of Tavistock Branch. Elected 3.5.'28.

ROBINSON.—On October 14, REGINALD THOMAS JOSEPH ROBINSON, aged 70, a member of Hathern Branch. Elected 30.12.'59.

SEAGER.—On September 30, EDWIN WHITTAKER SEAGER, aged 63, a member of Ayton Branch. Elected 14.10.'59.

WALTHALL.—On October 22, Brigadier-General EDWARD CHARLES WALTHALL DELVES WALTHALL, C.M.G., D.S.O., aged 87, formerly Chairman in Derbyshire. Elected 1.7.'23.

WILLIAMS.—On March 25, STANLEY WILLIAMS, aged 70, a founder member of Abertillery Branch. Elected 27.4.'33.

In Memoriam

GEORGE HIGHFIELD CHALLENGER

George died in the street on his way to church, where he was a deputy Warden. He was also a lay member of the Boy Scouts Association. George never missed an opportunity of saying that he owed his Church membership through coming into Toc H and he didn't like to be called upon for other meetings on the Bridlington Branch meeting nights. For over twelve years he helped in the Hospital Library and during all that time never missed a single week, coming back from his holidays especially to serve the patients with books.

G.M.G.

ARTHUR THOMAS LESLIE HUMPHREY

A member for over thirty years, Les was the sole remaining founder of Cheriton Branch. A native of Cheriton, Folkestone, he was well known throughout the Area, especially by the old folk and children. His countless jobs of service seldom came to light and his real love for his fellow men, combined with a sense of humour, endeared him to all. Overwork caused a serious illness early this year and it became necessary to amputate his right leg. He made a remarkable recovery and again took an active part in Branch life, holding the office of Treasurer and Vice-Chairman.

J.P.B.

EDWARD CHARLES WALTHALL DELVES WALTHALL

Brigadier-General Walthall was a valued friend of Toc H, particularly in Derbyshire. Having known the Old House at Poperinge in the First World War, after his return home he encouraged the formation of Derby Branch and held office successively as Branch President, District President and Chairman of the Area Executive, where his wise counsel was always appreciated. There was scarcely a major function of Toc H in the years between the two wars which he did not attend. But his interest was not confined to the large occasions and he found time to play cricket with the Derby Toc H XI. We shall always remember him as a gallant soldier, a good sportsman, and a Christian gentleman.

D.E.G.



MULTUM IN PARVO
much in little

W JOHN CALLE is now recovered and back at work as Administrator, following a restricted programme which for some time will not include travelling.

W ALAN HILL, formerly a Marks Pilot, has been appointed an Assistant Schools Secretary and Surrey Area Secretary.

Q The Rev. COLIN CUTTELL, Canon of Southwark Cathedral and Senior Chaplain of the South London Industrial Mission, has been appointed Field Commissioner for Toc H from January.

W CHARLES YOUNG will be leaving the Northern Area in January to become Warden of the new Mark III, Prideaux House.

W MANCHESTER AREA: The address of Padre BOB KNIGHT and the Area Office is now: Toc H, Milton Hall, 244 Deansgate, Manchester 3. (Tel.: Blackfriars 5874.)

W BEDS. & HERTS. AREA: The address of the Area Secretary, RAY FABES, is: The Rectory, Marston Moretayne, Bedford. (Tel.: Lower Shelton 248.)

W WORLD CHAIN OF LIGHT: At 9 p.m. by local time from 'Dor Knap' to the west on December 11 and from the east to 'Dor Knap' on December 12.

W BRANCH ACCOUNTS FORMS are due now; BRANCH MEMBERS' ROLLS by January 15.

W IN AID OF MARK III: 'Guys and Dolls' at the Scala Theatre, London, on February 13.

W CENTRAL COUNCILLORS are asked to send nominations of candidates for the Central Executive by February 14; also notices of motion to be discussed by the Council on March 31 by the same date.

W Instead of 'PROBATIONER' or 'Prospective Member', how about 'Prover', 'Prober' or 'Probiter'?

THE SUMMER FESTIVAL OF TOC H, 1962

Saturday, June 16:

Afternoon—Festival Services at historic Churches in London.
Evening —Festival Evening at the Royal Albert Hall.

Sunday, June 17:

Morning —On Tower Hill and at All Hallows by-the-Tower.
Afternoon—On South Bank and at the Royal Festival Hall.

"Out of many into one"



Maidenhead members help in transporting fifty sclerotic guests to and from the steamer during their annual river trip to Henley.

Maidenhead Advertiser

LENDING A HAND



The Deputy Lord Mayor (Coun. Ivor Thompson) talking to hospital patients on the Toe H broadcast system during an interval in the local football match.

Plymouth Independent

LENDING A HAND

FAR CRY overseas notes



Contributed by GEOFF MARTIN

BACK TO THE SOURCE

THE SPELL of delightful autumn weather broke on October 17, and with it the heavens. That morning, at Ostend station, the deluge began and scarcely stopped during the following three days when the Toc H Services Staff from B.A.O.R. were meeting at Talbot House, Poperinge, for a Staff Conference. It made no difference, of course, but it would have been pleasanter if the sun had shone just occasionally.

Colonel JOHN DAVIES, Chairman of the Services Team in London, guided the sessions. All the old hands were there—BOB PRESTON, BILL GIBB, ANNE VIDLER, THERESA CURZON, WALTER SMITH, JACK CARROTT, PETER EAST; and the newer boys—ROBIN MURPHY, MICHAEL NEWBOULT, DAVID BEAVER, GEORGE LORING—a wholly Toc H male cast. The absentees were TED and KATHLEEN EDWARDS who had been flown home from Berlin for an urgent medical check-up. Discussion ranged from such detailed concerns as stock-taking, chores, and internal planning of staff duties to the fundamental question of purpose—what exactly were we in Germany to do?

Padre JIM DAVIES, who had been visiting the Clubs during the previous week, helped everyone to feel their way towards the answer. In the environment of the Old House it was naturally easier in any case, even though the material demands of Services Clubs had changed since Tubby's day.

There was a great deal of fun, some good hard hitting, and, above all, a frank and natural sharing of personal faith and fellowship. The Family Prayers and Holy Communion in the Upper Room brought us all closer together in those three days than many years of ordinary co-operation could

have done. This sense of belonging to a team was undoubtedly strengthened by the overnight transport experience of the German party on their way to Ostend, devastating at the time, but uproariously funny in retrospect.

This was the first time that the Services Staff had met together in Poperinge, and it was a most rewarding experience for everyone. A great regret was that the originator of the idea, JOHN CALLE, was prevented by illness from sharing the companionship of fourteen good friends, who also happened to be colleagues.

PERSONAL

From a purely short term and domestic point of view this will be a sad paragraph, for it reports the resignation of our friend PIE MULUMBA as our Staff man in Uganda. After considerable thought and heart-searching he has decided to accept a post with the Uganda Electricity Board but will remain as the Honorary Secretary of Toc H in the meantime. Apart from offering him a more settled career he feels that his work with the Board will take him about the country a great deal and enable him to spread Toc H in his spare time. We are all very sorry to lose his full-time services, but we know Pie and are well assured of his continued enthusiasm for Toc H. All his friends, and there are many, will wish him well.

TALKING OF EXTENSION

Last month I mentioned the possibility of Toc H being started in the Ivory Coast. Since then a new group has been recognised in MAURITIUS, where this tender plant has been nurtured by Bishop ROGERS (formerly of North London) and Canon BAGNALL, for many months. Thirteen members have now been elected and the quality of the service undertaken by these new-comers to the Family of Toc H is really impressive; it would, or anyhow ought, to put many of us to shame. The birth of a new group in this island outpost is quite something, and as time goes on we shall hear more as the group in Phoenix shakes down and gradually gets the "feel" of an active Toc H unit.

There are other possibilities, too, shadowy at the moment, but with a hint of greater substance one day. For instance,

there is this letter from ERIC FARRIS, Secretary of Iver Branch. "This Branch was recently gratified to entertain a guest speaker of the Foreign Consular Service who gave his experiences of some thirty years therein. He afterwards expressed on his own initiative the cordial wish to become a member and in fact to form a Branch in Panama where he is shortly returning, and where he gave me to understand there is a community of some 1,000 English people amongst others." So a letter and a packet of literature goes to Panama: with what results, who can say?

And this—"When ROY (SAVILL) returns from leave, I will get in touch with him and see what can be done about starting a Branch out here. There is certainly a need for such a movement. To this end, I would appreciate some guidance from you, and the literature so kindly offered." This request is from Padre ARTHUR THOMPSON, writing on October 25th from his Congregational Manse, about fourteen miles from Georgetown, British Guiana. On the whole it has been an encouraging month.

Two More Tips for Branch Treasurers

JACK HARRISON

A leaflet recently circulated to Branch Treasurers outlined twenty-two tips which could prove helpful to them and their Branches. Here, to add to the list, are a couple of further suggestions.

(a) *Toc H Branch Members' Personal Accident Insurance Scheme.*

Renewal premiums at the rate of 1s. 2d. per Member are due to be paid by Toc H Headquarters on the 1st of January, 1962, and should be sent before that date to the Finance Secretary, Toc H H.Q. Please accept this as the *only reminder* as we cannot afford to waste money on the Postmaster General.

If your Membership increased during 1961 you should include an extra 7d. per new member to cover the 1961 premiums. If Membership fell during 1961 you can reduce your premiums by 7d. per man lost, if you wish.

Branches will be covered only from the date their premiums are received, so please don't miss the boat.

Most Branches made a small additional contribution of a few shillings towards the cost of the Third Party premium paid by H.Q. and covering all Branches. I should welcome a repeat of this vote of confidence in the management!

(b) *Toc H Branch Self Assessment Envelope Scheme.*

This scheme has been tried out by a number of Branches in various parts of the U.K. and has proved its value. Treasurers requiring renewals of envelopes should please let me know as soon as possible how many sets they will need.

The first issue was a trial run and no charge was made. Those Branches who have proved its value will not object to refunding the cost of 9d. per set of envelopes to the Family Purse. No invoices will be issued and no accounts kept regarding this item as the Finance department at H.Q. is still short of manpower. Will Treasurers, therefore, please send their 9d. per set with their orders, and so save time?

Those Branches who have not yet tried out this scheme may do so this year free of charge. When ordering for the first time, please make that clear so that we don't write for your cash.

The scheme can start at any time but the first week of January is a good time to begin. The envelopes are numbered "Week 1", "Week 2" and so on but are not dated. It is therefore only necessary for the Branch Treasurer to put a card on the Notice Board giving the number of the current week.

A limited supply of envelopes has been bought and orders will be dealt with in strict rotation. If orders exceed stocks, a new supply will be bought but there will be a delay of some weeks before we receive them from the manufacturer.

Don't just say brown

—say Hovis

'And there were Shepherds'

HIGH on the green hillside
The flocks that wandered wide
By day, now cluster round the shepherd's knee ;
As melodies forget
Their loneliness, when met
And mingled in some wistful harmony.



The bleating grows more rare
Beneath his trusted care,
The night-stars nod, forgetful of the dawn :
In palace and in keep,
Princes and warders sleep.
A star steals down—to us a child is born.

Hither, mankind, behold !
What prophets have foretold
Yet scarce foreknown, is come into your ken.
Be still, each low night-sound.
A whisper is a wound,
When God hath come, hath come in sleep, to men.

Creation, lift thine heart,
Ponder the destined part
Of Him that sleeps against laborious day ;
What dreams of sacrifice
Couch in those sealèd eyes,
What gifts in those small hands for us alway.



We are no kings that now
In such stained raiment bow,
Wooing the white dawn that shall ope thine eye.
No royal cerements
Of myrrh and frankincense
Down in the straw before thy cradle lie.

Nought have we in our hands
Save our rude shepherds' wands,
Nor in our hearts enow of humble praise ;
Nor such soul's harmony
As may not anger thee,
For all our rough unwarrantable ways.

Yet in the mist we hear
Voices of dead most dear,
And 'mid the legions mark the forms we know.
More straight, more strong than then,
They stand and cry "Amen.
Shall we, Love's escort, our own Love forego ?"

Stand back, sweet morn. This night
Is full of purer light
Than suns which climb with this or that tomorrow.
The Gentile Kings give place.
Beneath us lies the face
Of Him who pardons sin and comforts sorrow.

P. B. CLAYTON.





Here are two further entries in the
Competition 'Concerning Toc H'.
For details see cover notice.

Landfalls!

TED INGLIS

IN NOVEMBER, 1951, yes, some time back, the JOURNAL published an article (over my name) titled 'Missed Landfalls!'. It concerned Toc H and I feel still does, and a few extracts will, I hope, be as relevant today as when they were first written.

"Thirty years of active Trade Union work has given me an opportunity to see Trades Unions operating at many levels: Branch, District, National, Trades Councils and the Trades Union Congress itself. Side by side with this activity I have enjoyed a quarter of a century of membership in Toc H. Trades Unionism has, in my view, correctly been the vehicle for my main Toc H job.

From a Toc H standpoint it has been lonely work: rarely have I met a Toc H badge—a couple of times, at a National Conference, but seldom elsewhere in the Trade Union movement.

I have tried to interest Toc H Branches as to the democratic importance of the organisations concerned, *and the necessity of drawing closer together the employees and employed* (the italics are mine).

Time has been spent trying to place in better perspective many of the views held seemingly by a great majority of Toc H members as to the functions which are more often seen by them as 'anti-social' activities by trade unionists.

In many cases I have found a wish to close or even avoid discussion of the pros and cons of the desires which organised workpeople use their Unions to express.

Examination of minutes of Toc H Branches has rarely indicated that the Branches have examined Trade Union issues.

In reverse, probably because of the antipathy of Toc H generally in the sphere under review, I have found a massive misunderstanding of Toc H and its great principles inside

the Trade Union movement, this particularly when an explanation of my Toc H badge has been sought.

Are we missing a large boat? Does the fault lie with the failure to seize the imagination of Trades Unionists by Toc H from the centre, or its Branches, or both?"

In 1961, with ten years added, I find Toc H still "dragging its feet" in this field of our greatest problem and yet opportunity.

Branches can do much. Headquarters, also, could see that Trades Unionism and Management and Labour relations has a place in the JOURNAL and *on the agenda of the next staff conference.*

★ What makes it tick?

DICK PERKINS

AFTER SIX YEARS as a member of Toc H, I sat down the other evening to try and sort out what makes our Branch at Wellingborough such a happy one.

Was it past tradition? Going back over 20 years of Branch life has a spirit grown up with the Branch, that somehow has been handed down, or passed on. Perhaps, but a lot of the present members have no connection with the old days.

Is it the friendly and happy spirit of the present membership, their outspokenness, their self-criticism, their lack of inhibitions? Perhaps.

Is it the odd mixture of blokes we have got, what Branch could have a more peculiar set than Wellingborough? We have a doctor, a dustman, a painter, bricklayer, school-teacher, insurance bloke, factory workers, electrician, Gas Board, tailor, building society, civil servants, driver, clerks, postman, hairdresser, railway man, butcher, and several who the branch claim do not work, including myself, a full-time Trade Union official. When this lot gets together on a Friday evening a spirit seems to be present that I cannot describe.

Is it the taking of 'Light'? Or homegoing prayers? The quiet moments when the banter is stopped, and the flickering

light of the Lamp shows quiet, serious faces; thinking back, thinking forward, asking that we as a Branch and as individual members might be worthy of the task we believe we are called to.

I don't know what it is; it is hard to put into words. I only know this, that when I have had a hard and difficult week, and by Friday it can be so, off I go to Branch meeting, and it *never* fails to lift me up. I talk, I laugh, I pray with that group of blokes and I feel better. The troubles and problems of the week seem less important and I get a new spirit to help me on my way.

If I were to tell that crowd they do me good, they would tell me I *need* something to make me better, and make rude suggestions as to what I should do, with a great deal of laughter.

No, I don't know what makes our Branch tick, we are always grumbling. We say the Branch is dead, it's in a rut, we want shaking up. I don't know, or do I?

Because at odd moments, usually, but not always, by the light of the Lamp, I feel a presence, an uplift of the spirit, and that tells me although my faith is weak and my following of our Lord so faltering, in our Branch meeting He speaks to me, and I am sure He speaks to others too.

That's what makes us tick, as members, as a Branch, as a Movement. What else can it be? After all, that is Toc H.

35mm. COLOUR TRANSPARENCIES
TALBOT HOUSE, POOPERINGE

sets of six, mounted in card frames

Set 'A'	1. Original Signboard 2. Hall and Staircase 3. Breakfast Room and Garden	4. Garden from House 5. The Library 6. The Chapel
Set 'B'	7. The Old House, from street 8. Hall from doorway 9. The Garden	10. The Chaplain's Room 11. The Upper Landing 12. The Chapel
Set 'C'	13. Skindles Hotel 14. Grand' Place on Market Day 15. The Pool of Peace	16. St. George's Church, Ypres 17. Lille Gate Cemetery 18. Menin Gate

6s. Od. per set, post free, or 15s. Od. for the complete series of eighteen pictures.

TOC H PUBLICATIONS, 15 TRINITY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.3



A War Blinded ex-Serviceman making Nest Boxes and Tit Cones. He served in the Royal Engineers and was wounded and totally blinded lifting mines at the crossing of the Sangro River.

Linburn Achievement

LINBURN ESTATE forms part of the village of Wilkieston, near Edinburgh. Here there is a community of ex-Servicemen, totally or partially blinded in World War II who, together with their instructors, are rather like a ship's company working together to run a going concern. At Linburn, men learn to fight and win their toughest battles. The skill and assurance with which they handle edged tools, leaves no room for any doubt as to their complete victory over blindness.

Together, they produce in leather, wrought-iron, plastic and cane, a big range of articles. They also make a series of items of garden bird equipment which includes Tit nesting boxes, seed hoppers, galvanised wire scrap baskets and nut cylinders, at very reasonable prices.

At this time of year, when many people are wrestling with a Christmas present list, here is one suggestion for a gift that can bring pleasure to those with even very small gardens. Further details are readily obtainable direct from The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh.

OPEN HUSTINGS

readers' letters



The Editor welcomes letters on all matters concerning Toc H and asks that they be written briefly and to the point. Effort is made to include a representative selection, and they are printed as individual view-points, not necessarily those of the Movement as a whole.

Public Image

IT WAS with mingled disgust and horror that I read in a recent Area news-sheet an article relating how a certain Branch had manned a float in a recent procession, on which Toc H Members served tea to eight old ladies, and the writer related with pride how shouts of "Good old Toc H" were heard.

I am still astounded that a body of mature men (as we must assume the Branch to be) could be sufficiently puerile as to actively perpetuate the public image of Toc H as an organisation of 'nice' men who drink tea with old ladies. Small wonder that we are ridiculed and despised by so many. We deserve all the ridicule we get if we consistently present ourselves to the public, and especially the young public, as an organisation of tea-brewing old dodderers.

My astonishment is even more acute that the writer of the article should delight in the shouts of "Good old Toc H". May Heaven forbid that we should be classed as one of the "Good old" institutions. No worthwhile challenge is ever held in affection, and every affectionate comment is a measure of our pitiful decline at present. Movements which harry the public conscience, and speak out honestly, are seldom held in

affection. The very words "Good old Toc H" imply that we have lost our power to shock and shake people. We are becoming a movement, nay, an organisation of mealy-mouthed morons peddling politeness and platitudes.

Does the Branch in question, or anyone for that matter, really believe that we can attract Youth by propaganda such as this? There can be no doubt that we sink or swim by our ability to interest and involve young people. Let us start thinking a little. I congratulate the Branch in question for its efforts towards publicity; I only wish it had thought about it as well.

I have been rude, and I am not going to retract one iota. I mean what I have said, and if the Branch I refer to, or any other Branch for that matter, wishes to take me up on this, let them have the guts to do so. At least it will show the Movement is not entirely senile.

JOHN MITCHELL.
Eltham Park, S.E.9.

Festival Finance

FOLLOWING on Harry Gell's suggestion outlined in last month's JOURNAL, some members may like to operate a scheme for the Branch Treasurer to issue printed club cards (costing

roughly a penny each) and himself use a small multi-columned cash-book, marking-up the total cash received each week.

It then needs two members to open a joint home safe account at a local bank, paying in each week. This prevents the cash received from becoming mixed up with other funds. It is important to make sure that every member saving for the Festival has his own card and sees it marked up every time he hands over a deposit.

This works—we've a similar scheme operating at H.Q.

G. ADAMS.

Orpington, Kent.

Thursday Lunch Club

COULD you please find a 'natural break' in the JOURNAL for a brief 'commercial' on behalf of the London Toc H Thursday Lunch Time Club which meets every Thursday at 1 p.m. behind Holy Trinity Church, Kingsway, W.C.2 (directly opposite Holborn Underground Station).

Those who pick their way up the dark narrow alley which runs alongside the church to the delightful little garden at the top and, turning left, plunge down the flight of stone steps to our subterranean meeting place, will find a warm welcome and a cup of tea awaiting them. The only food we are able to offer is food for thought but this will be served up with liberal helpings of friendship in the true Toc H tradition.

We are always pleased to meet Toc H members and Builders visiting London, and those who work nearby are cordially invited to become regular members.

DICK SWINSON,

Hon. Secretary.

Toc H Thursday Lunch Club.

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Toc H and Scouting

IN A recent review in the JOURNAL, the writer raised his eyebrow because no mention of Toc H had been made in the recently-published history *B.P.'s Scouts*. In the new *Toc H Signpost* we are told "... it has been said that 'Toc H and Scouting were made for each other'." An examination of the Scout Law and Promise and the Main Resolution of Toc H reveals a striking unity of aims. Experience of both movements confirms that there is not only unity of aims but a remarkable similarity of attitude and method.

At Scouters' meetings one finds the same mixture of concern, enthusiasm, lunacy, inspiration, unselfishness, family feeling, conservatism (small c) and Christianity (big C) found in Toc H. Yet, in my experience, the majority of Scouters know very little of Toc H and the average Branch Member is often ignorant of the real purposes and methods of Scouting. My Scouter friends imagine us as a strange secret society of elderly men, cherishing impractical theological interests, whilst Toc H friends have a vivid, dizzy and frightening picture of bare knees, leaking tents, burnt food, bad marching and masses of small unruly boys. Perhaps each movement has asked for it a bit but, in case anyone should doubt it, each idea is as wrong as the other. Often, even when we co-operate, very little of the true nature of one gets over to the other. We all lose from this lack of communication. What can we do to improve our undoubtedly friendship?

What if those of us who are members of both movements got together with the aim of giving a true picture of each to ordinary

members of the other? Could we meet, perhaps at Dor Knap or locally, to pray and work for better, closer, and more understanding working arrangements between the two movements of our concern? Why not a 1st Dor Knap Group (something of a cross between the 1st Gilwell Park Group and the Bordon Company) for Scouter-Toc H Members especially concerned to build up real mutual understanding. Could we sponsor articles in the JOURNAL and SCOUTER or a small publication to be issued jointly by both H.Q.s?

Might Toc H Members in Scout uniform wear their Toc H badge as the Scouts' Friendly Society do? Would all this help the average Toc H Jobmaster to realise that here, amongst Seniors and Rovers, are competent, trained young men ready to look wide for Christian adventure and service, or the Troop Scouter to discover in the Toc H Unit round the corner men so likeminded that it staggers him? Surely we should walk together in keen, understanding co-operation at local level, rather than in the slightly embarrassed silence of mutual rather ignorant high level respect?

DEREK YARDLEY WRIGHT,
Pilot, Stroud Branch, Toc H.
Senior Scout Leader,
Wycliffe College Scout Group.

Recruitment

BETWEEN the wars we had the incentive of *Tales of Talbot House* and a keenness which a comparatively new movement always commands. The tradition remains but the fact is that its impact means little to the present generation of prospective recruits.

The achievements of Toc H past and present are well known

and we are well thought of locally and nationally.

It is the problem of increased members that should be the priority target of every Branch.

One thing is certain: the health and liveliness of each unit should be assured before any new visitors are introduced. Too many Branches are stale and boring; the spirit and inspiration are missing. To remedy this is the first job and then to the recruitment operation. There is no cast-iron solution. A mass blitz and a campaign of publicity might be all right for certain religious organisations. Toc H needs something more fundamental.

If every member made it his personal business to introduce one friend we should soon be doubling our numbers. Our system of 'probationary period' gives the prospective member the option of declining or joining. It is as simple as that. We certainly need the 'unlikely' man to create the mixture badly wanted in many Branches. So let us shed some of our respectability and complacency and fill the empty chairs.

W. G. CAPPER.
*Cheadle Hulme,
Cheshire.*

"To" or "For"?

ON PAGE 392 of the November JOURNAL we are told, on the authority of my friend Clifford Pollard, that: "In Toc H we are called upon to listen to God's voice"—as if His voice were a sort of continuous radio programme which we can readily switch on and off at our pleasure.

At my school, just after World War I, some of us made a crystal-set on which we used to grope around the ether for the

very earliest public transmissions. These were anything but continuous. Our set was not very efficient and we tried for a long time before we could hear anything at all. When we did achieve reception it was faint and hard to understand, but it was immensely significant. Naturally, we became more expert with practice.

This experience helped me when, years later, I began to wrestle with the great challenge of Toc H's Main Resolution: "We pledge ourselves to strive, to listen now and always for the voice of God . . ." That, I found, was a very different thing from what is suggested by the wording of Clifford's question. I should expect him to have a better crystal-set than mine, but few of us have one as good as all that!

London. MAYNE ELSON.

Hon. Associates?

I AM SURE there are many Branches enjoying the active support of a number of friends, who willingly perform acts of service for Toc H whenever they are able, giving a helping hand in many Branch activities, providing transport for the aged and disabled, etc.

However, for various reasons, they feel unable to commit themselves to the obligations of full membership or even to become Builder members. It seems a pity that Toc H has little to offer them in recognition of their most valuable services, apart from an occasional 'thank you'.

I suggest that this omission should be remedied officially with the least possible delay and that Branches should be able to recognise their services, and indeed their fellowship and their expenditure, on behalf of Toc H.

OPEN HUSTINGS

by appointing them honorary Associates.

They should be presented with an approved card indicating that Toc H has been pleased to confer upon them the title of honorary Associate and that the Branch should maintain a separate roll of these good friends.

They should be regarded by the Branch as the most promising source of prospective members, whenever circumstances permit them to assume that commitment.

ERNEST NORRIS.
Southgate, N.4.

'Green Rushes'

HERE in Southern Rhodesia we have a Radio Programme which invites questions from 'Young Rhodesia'. My son, aged eleven years, wrote for information on the ancient song *Twelve days to Christmas* or *Green grow the rushes Ho!* Imagine our surprise when over the air he was advised to contact Toc H Umtali for information. The surprise arising out of the fact that I am a member of Toc H and knew nothing myself of the supplement to the Toc H JOURNAL of December, 1956, which, of course, gives information of the song.

I managed to borrow the only available known copy from Tom Stratton who is our Pilot. I am wondering whether a copy of the supplement is still available? If so, I shall be most grateful to get my hands on a copy.

J. N. JENKINSON
Box 323, Umtali,
Southern Rhodesia.

[Our stock of spare copies of 'Green Rushes', issued with the December '56 JOURNAL, has long since been exhausted. We should be glad to hear from any reader with a copy to spare and willing to pass it on.—ED.]

Combined Operation

FRED FINEDON

THIS IS NOTHING to do with the Commandos, nor is it a clinical sequence from 'Emergency—Ward 10'. It is the simple narrative of a simple (?) Toc H job, requested with confidence, undertaken with trepidation, and completed with satisfaction; but between these stages much hard work, not a few worries, and above all, a clear demonstration of the power of several small groups working together as one team.

The story starts way back in March, when an Area Secretary was visiting one of the smaller Branches in his diocese. He casually suggested that the Branch might like to be hosts to an outing of a Multiple Sclerosis Society, and receive, feed, and entertain them for a day. He explained that Barnet Toc H took an active interest in their local branch of the M.S.S., and each year arranged a day out for them, a friendly motoring club giving transport, and a distant Toc H Branch arranging accommodation and catering, etc. "There will only be ninety to cater for," he said. Ninety! and we strain ourselves to provide tea and biscuits when we have half a dozen visitors—"and Barnet M.S.S. will finance the arrangements, all you've got to do is lay it on—it's quite easy if you get the Branch at S— to help." So we timidly accepted.

As the months passed, we had a few casual thoughts about the job, and eventually a joint meeting with S— to discuss all the many reasons why it was quite impossible for us to do it. Having agreed that the whole thing was beyond us, we then formulated plans how we might make the attempt. Plan 'A' was to invite the Barnet Boys down to tell us in detail what was wanted, and plan 'B' was to get Branches of the Women's Association interested in the catering business.

And then Tommy, from Barnet, anticipated Plan 'A' and invited himself down to see us, together with his M.S.S. chairman on a night when S— Branch could send some delegates. This infectious enthusiasm soon cleared the fog from our hazy notions about Multiple Sclerosis and what

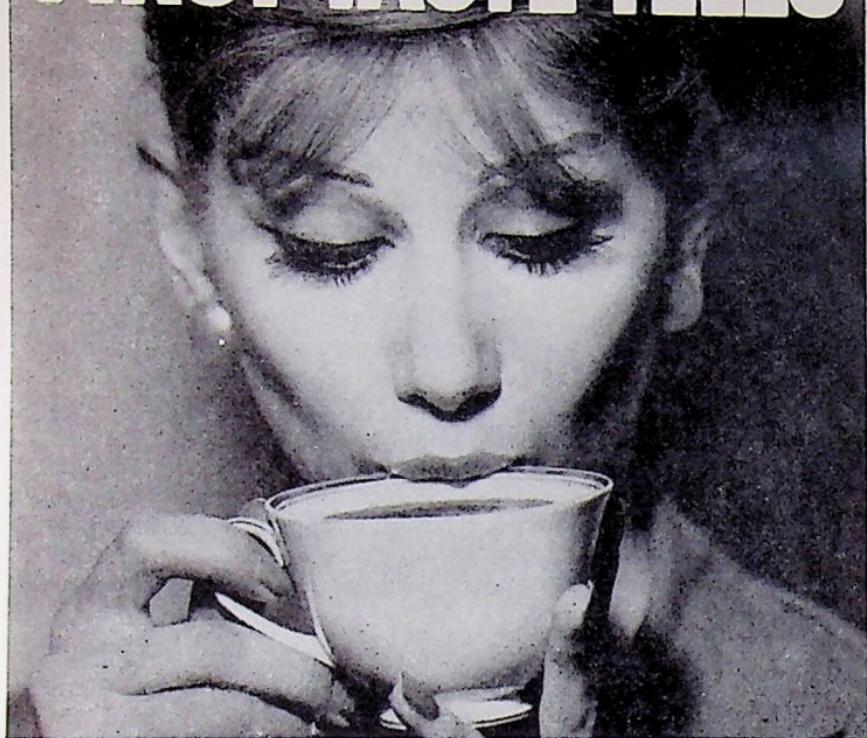
his annual outing required from us. He then corrected the number of visitors to read 120, not ninety, and took his leave. When he had gone, we realised that the fog he had so gaily swept away now left our problems clearly displayed, together with a few more we had overlooked.

So plan 'B' was put into operation, and our two Branches and two Women's Association Branches had a composite meeting. The ladies, bless 'em, soon stopped us toying with ideas of salads and ham and currant bun meals, and spoke with technical authority about hot lunches. Tommy appeared again at the joint meeting, and in passing mentioned that Enfield M.S.S. would be coming as well, so better make it 150 for lunch, with a few extra for tea! He, and we, were pleased to know that Barclay School would be available for the occasion: this had housed last year's Area Rally, and, besides a large hall complete with stage, had a separate dining hall, comprehensive kitchen, and the 'usual offices' all on one floor, with no steps to hinder the disabled and plenty of car parkage; the stage show was already in an advanced stage of production, so now we really felt things were under control. We then managed to be civil at home again, as the final details were arranged; such things as borrowing wheelchairs, arranging transport for food and helpers and entertainers, extending the catering for Tommy's revised figures—200 for lunch—240 for tea!

Then, wham!—five days to go and our expected source of cutlery and crockery dried up. Never mind, Jim's firm's canteen will lend us them, and, if not, we can hire them. But the canteen couldn't, due to Sunday shifts, and the hire firm had already hired them. Three days to go. This is where we nearly owned discouragement. But a few dozen 'phone calls, pleadings, swearings and threats were made, and there was crockery and cutlery all available, within easy reach: so we started breathing again.

The day dawned, dull and drizzling, in spite of Tommy's assurance that the sun always shone for the outing. A flurry of cars around the two towns collecting staff and food, and off-loading at the school—(Can anyone send me a formula for removing the aroma of Lancashire Hot-pot brewed to a Yorkshire recipe, from behind the back seat of a car?) hustle and bustle in the kitchen, the clink of cutlery and crash of crockery as the tables are set, and

FIRST TASTE TELLS



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dressed overall with flowers, and then the visitors begin arriving; a trickle of cars (and rain) soon grows into a stream of cars (and rain), and, ere long, a flood of cars (and more rain).

A ferry service of wheelchairs, St. John Ambulance men escorting the lame, Tommy's beaming face appearing wherever we look, old friends greeting new ones and we're in it now, boys, up to the ankles, head first. Did he say 200? Looks more like a thousand, hope there's enough grub, where shall we put 'em all?

The seething chaos in the lobby disappears as the dining hall fills, and as happy chatter across the tables drowns the noise of dishing up and serving our early misgivings fly away, and new ones take their places—Will the kitchen stand the strain? There's another sitting to follow, how can we get to work on time tomorrow and still do the washing up? Will the weather delay or, heaven forbid, prevent our entertainment artists from arriving?

The food was sufficient and, once we stopped gazing awestruck at the china mountains, the washing up was soon complete, and hurrah, there was Angela, complete with pianist, all ready to go on stage. Pete and Maureen appeared from behind their guitar, Brian the baritone was busy ensuring that he would be singing the same tune that his accompanist was playing. So, on with the show!

And on with the show it was; our revered Area Secretary compèred the programme. All proceeds smoothly, the audience clapping and cheering each turn delightedly (they didn't know there was to be a show until it started), then, suddenly, we've got to the last item of the programme, the Accordion Keynotes, but where are they? We know they are racing here from another engagement, but has the rain deterred them? The audience is fidgeting, tell 'em another of your well-known funny stories, Ray, yes, and another, and another, all right, call it a day, tea's ready, ask them to move quietly to the dining hall—no, stop!—'Ladies and Gentlemen, the Accordion Keynotes,' and so the final stars shine out on the stage, music, and rhythm sets feet tapping, and finally, the show is over.

Now tea and chatter, cakes and natter, piles of sandwiches appear and disappear, mountains of cakes slip silently from sight, and, once more replete, the guests return to the hall

to hear a final word from their chairman, Eric Foster, and from their President, Lady Pound. As she charmingly thanks us for our efforts, we feel a warm glow of satisfaction.

And so the exodus commences, wheelchairs, cars, ambulances, the transport manager has all our admiration so smoothly does the crowd disperse, till we, alone with spilling ashtrays and dejected empty chairs, rejoice in silence that all has gone so well. Three Toc H Branches, two Toe H W.A. Branches, two M.S.S. Branches, the Bohemian Car Club, the St. John Ambulance Brigade, and many individual helpers, all working together to render a service for some less fortunate could not fail to find success. So now you know the reason for my title.

Dor Knap Weekend

FRANK BUZZARD

An impression of the East Midlands Area Executive meeting held at Dor Knap this summer.

ALL THE WAY up the hill, and at the top, we were impressed by the loveliness of nature until we were asked to change into old clothes, and confronted with a mass of nettles and every known species of weed. My Branch has tackled a few rough gardens in its time, but this . . . ! After an invigorating hour's labour, supper tasted good.

Through the trees I watched the sun sink in a blaze of colour beside Bredon Hill, then went indoors for my first Area Meeting. It was a good one: like a crisp town council meeting but, with evil satisfaction, I noted that it ran nearly an hour beyond scheduled time. Before going to bed we played a few gramophone records including Robert Donat reciting the poetry of Keats. "Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness" seemed most appropriate to the situation. I slept like a log.

Most days of the year, the only walk that confronts me before breakfast is along suburban streets scented with the sulphurous smell of the brick works. This morning

TOC H JOURNAL

things were different and when several cars departed for church I set off with two companions. Ray Woolley knows and loves the English countryside and I learnt a lot about birds and animals that I did not know before. I enjoyed breakfast after I had served the other chaps, and then lent a hand with the washing-up.

Recruitment (yes, I know it's in every article you read about Toc H these days) was the subject chosen for the morning session. Each District reported progress and general discussion followed. After a good lunch, even the more loquacious dried up in the face of more "Recruitment" before Doug Alcock finished the session with the challenge "I will get a new member before Christmas if it kills me—or him." That summed it up for me. Some preaching is necessary but it is the practise that counts and I shall remember Harold Bramley, whose District, taking an interest in weak Branches—went in and said this is not Toc H, we will show you—and did. Philip Emmerson (who was down the pit Saturday morning) telling me from the next bed about his efforts at Thringstone and John Poole with his invitation pamphlets for launching Kettering. It was grand to meet these chaps.

C. S. Lewis says that Christianity is a kind of good infection which one person passes to another: I feel that something good was rubbed on to me at Dor Knap.

'FOCUS ON TOC H' (3)

Judging of the entries for this competition has now been completed and the following awards made.

BLACK AND WHITE CLASS. *First* N. H. P. Vereker, London. S.W.5; *Second* T. E. Hodson, Lincoln. **COLOUR TRANSPARENCY CLASS.** *First* M. J. Osborne, Bournemouth; *Second* P. E. K. Morgan, Birmingham 13; *Third* G. Dillaway, Wisbech.

Prize winners have been notified by post and transparencies returned to all entrants. It is hoped to reproduce some of the winning entries in next month's issue.



FROM ALL PARTS direct from areas

SOUTH WALES

from C. T. Edwards

Three years ago, members of LLANLLWCH (Carmarthen) Branch started an experiment which has proved to be a profitable undertaking. Installing themselves in an unused arts and crafts centre, they set out to produce small items of gardening equipment which were not normally available through horticultural salesmen.

Their scheme is still prospering; members meet on two evenings a week throughout the winter months and have plenty of work to keep them occupied. With the trade name of "Thingammy Products", they started with simple things like seed boxes, dibbers and garden lines, but have developed a business in made-to-measure garden frames, plant tubs, window boxes and troughs.

In addition to paying for rent and materials they have been able to give regular support to TOC H and BELRA and also contributed to a number of appeals. They have also accumulated over £300 towards their building fund for a hall at Johnstown. In brief, they utilise their talents in providing items of beauty for house and garden and divert revenue to worthy causes.

WEST YORKSHIRE

from David Bagshaw

During the autumn and winter of each year, OUGHTIBRIDGE Branch has organised the showing of films to mentally sick patients of Middlewood Hospital, Sheffield. Last September for the first time senior schoolboys and students were invited to offer their services as assistant projectionists. There was a ready response to this invitation and throughout the winter, boys from HIGH STORRS GRAMMAR SCHOOL and SHEFFIELD TRAINING COLLEGE helped in the projection of films in the different wards of the hospital.

At first this promised only to be a new experience and few of us imagined how gratifying and enlightening it would be. By giving up a few hours each week we had in return the pleasure of providing a host of patients with entertainment. The enjoyment we derived from this service is evident by the number of boys who came along week after week, throughout the winter. The films were shown every night for a week, except Sunday, two wards being visited each evening.

The shows seemed to be extremely successful, for not only were the films quite modern, and a welcome entertainment for the patients, but we who helped in the showing were gratified by their obvious pleasure in our company.

The hospital staff were very helpful to us in many ways, and appreciated the job we did, and the attempts we made to get through to the patients, giving us every co-operation.

EASTERN LONDON

from Jim Green

LOUGHTON Branch enjoyed themselves when they undertook the exterior re-decoration of a block of six almshouses. Over a period of four weekends, the whole Branch was involved in one or other of the small parties detailed by the Jobmaster to different tasks, such as repairing woodwork, washing down the paintwork, re-painting and whitewashing. The old ladies who occupy the almshouses also seemed to enjoy having the Branch members around and they were always ready for a chat over a cup of tea. The local paper has since printed an appreciative letter from one of the old ladies.



Southend and County Pictorial

Nurse P. O. Akinyemi and a patient listen to the *Toe II* Soccer commentary broadcast to Southend General Hospital.

EAST MIDLANDS

from L. Pepper

The village hall was filled to capacity on Saturday, October 21, when EAST LEAKE Branch in conjunction with the local W.A. Branch, put on a Harvest Supper. Tickets had been first offered to pensioners at a nominal charge of a bob and then to the rest of the villagers at half-a-crown.

The meal was a notable one of roast pork, supplemented by pies and pickles, tarts and cake. When everyone had eaten, they joined in singing much-loved harvest hymns and then followed ninety minutes of home-made entertainment. All the items were the work of members of the two Branches aided by a few friends.

At the evening's close, the general feeling of the guests was summed up with the words "the best ever", while from the members "we didn't realise we could do anything like this".

NOTTS. & DERBY.

from Les Wheatley

October is 'gold rush' month for Branch contributions before the year end. WEST HALLAM (Staton) Branch heard the Area Treasurer's loud cry for cash, were greatly moved by it and promptly put their Secretary into pawn and raised a fiver on him for the Family Purse. "If you knew Edgar, as I knew Edgar . . ." you'd say that was a princely sum! The Branch has just successfully launched a club for the local blind. GRAEME (Derby) Branch are giving a hand with mentally handicapped children. The DERBY MARK is having an internal spring-clean to which one is tempted to add "not before time". Colin Campbell paid a visit to Derby and spoke to General Members at Morley Retreat House about Marks in general and the new Mark III in particular. RIDDINGS Branch are taking first steps towards investigating the need for a local village hall. STAPLEFORD has an interest in a '61 Club' for young people on Sunday nights. MANSFIELD, MANSFIELD WOODHOUSE and KIRKBY Branches are giving help in various ways at Thieves Wood School for physically handicapped children. As reported under Lincolnshire Area notes last month, these Branches took a party of children from the school to MABLETTONORPE and with the help of the Branch there did a first-rate job.

WORKSOP Branch has now undertaken the visiting of a remand home in Worksop. The annual bonfire party run jointly with a local Scout Group was held on November 4 at Sherwood, NOTTINGHAM, with many overseas students present.

NORTH WALES

from Gwilym Edwards

"Branch Life" was the subject of keen discussion when introduced by Jack Shaw at the Autumn Conference held at Rhyl. Members from units in North Wales voted the proceedings most stimulating and progressive. Among the questions posed were:—

"What do you suggest are the characteristics of Toc H valuable to the community today? Are you prepared truly to accept Toc H in a vastly different form from that which you have known? Is there an acceptance of responsibility to the Family Purse? Are our views on mixture, programmes and reproduction sufficiently challenging?"

The general opinion appeared to be one of orthodoxy, the response to the first question being the attributes of fellowship and service upon which we have been weaned; there was no acceptance of any material change in our form, "it would not then be Toc H!"; there was a vehement appeal for renewed efforts for the Family Purse; and recent trends recalled suggested that we were adapting ourselves more to the challenge of the '60's.

Jack Shaw continues his crusade at PORTMADOC on December 11 and LLANDUDNO on December 12 at District Guest-nights.

Re-dedication Services and Guest-nights have been held in the RHYL and CONWAY Districts, and on both occasions Padre John Jones was given a warm reception as Speaker. The Rhyl Service took place in the Congregational Church, and the Conway Service at the old Church of Llancystein where the Rector dedicated the new banner of MOCHIDRE Branch.



The Citizen, Gloucester

Gifts collected by pupils of Moat Junior School for their harvest festival and later distributed by members of Matson Branch.

EAST ANGLIA

from Reg Smith

Jack Harrison, Finance Secretary, paid his second visit to the Area within recent months to speak to members at a Get-together at MILDENHALL, at which all Branches in the Gogs Division were represented. Jack then travelled on to Overstrand, near Cromer, where he led the second of the two Area Week-ends held at 'The Pleasaunce' each year. The sixty members present were grateful for the lead given to group discussions on 'The Health of the Branch', 'The Nature of the Family' and 'The History of Toc H Finance'. The programme also included films shown by the Eaton Branch film unit.

CAISTER-ON-SEA Branch received its Lamp at a Family Gathering of friends and members of Branches in the Broads District. Charles Beamish, Norfolk Divisional Chairman, kindled the Lamp for the first time; Alan Brooke, Divisional Secretary, initiated new members, and Padre Jim Farrant, a member of the Divisional Guard of Lamp, spoke on "Members' responsibility to the Toc H Family".

GLEMSFORD Branch also received its new Lamp a week or so later at a crowded meeting, fourteen Branches in the CONSTABLE and GOGS Division being present. To Kim Goodwin, the founder member of the new Branch, fell the privilege of lighting the Lamp for the first time and leading the Ceremony of Light. Padre Jim Davies, Administrative Padre, spoke of our inevitable involvement in the concerns of our neighbours, whether local, national or international.

BEDS. & HERTS.

from Ray Fables

WOLVERTON welcomed over forty of their Toc H Builders to their annual Dinner, celebrating the Branch's 39th Birthday, which was the great success that Sydney Swain deserved for all his efforts in organising this function. An attendance of over a hundred welcomed as their Guest-of-honour Padre Arthur Stanton, co-founder of the Branch, whose health was proposed by Bill Holloway, son of 'Pa', the late co-founder with the Padre. of Wolverton in 1922.



Herts. Advertiser

Freddie Petch presenting the Norman Motley darts trophy to David Owens, captain of Harpenden, the winning team.

Central Executive, gave the address at the Branch Re-dedication service which was attended by a large number of local well-wishers.

MANCHESTER

from Geoffrey Barnes

The FOUR SHIRES FAMILY GATHERING was held at Oldham on Saturday, September 30. Over 500 members of Toc H, the Women's Association and their friends came from all parts of Lancashire, Yorkshire, Cheshire and Staffordshire, and the event was an occasion of good fellowship. The afternoon service, attended by the Mayor of Oldham, was conducted by the Rev. J. Calderley, Rural Dean of Middleton, and the sermon was preached by the Rev. J. H. Davis, of Bolton. Afterwards tea was served by members of local Branches of the Women's Association. The evening meeting was conducted in light-hearted but efficient manner by 'Chum' Hodge of Altringham. After a roll-call of Shires and Branches there followed a civic welcome from the Mayor of Oldham, Alderman Alice Kenyon. Light was taken by Richard Roberts, Chairman of Manchester Area Toc H. Our Guest Speakers were Alan Hill, Toc H Marks Pilot, and Elsa Perrin of the W.A. Staff. In lighter moments we had a musical interlude, arranged by Norman Kingston and Co., and an original one-act play written by Marion Cocker of Oldham W.A. Finally, homegoing prayers, led by Dr. Molly Rampling, Pilot of Manchester W.A. Area, concluded this most happy and successful meeting.



SOUTH WESTERN

from Gilbert Francis

Over recent weeks MARTOCK Branch have been very busy raising the money to provide the town's Recreation Ground with a roundabout for the use of the children. The roundabout arrived in pieces to be assembled and erected by the Branch, who took off their coats and got down to it. Several spells of hard work and several tons of concrete later, the roundabout was finished and complete in all its glory and is now being fully used by the youngsters.

The story is told of a member in this Area, who shall be nameless, who arrived home and found his eight-year-old son and the son of his next-door neighbour, also a Toc H member, making plaster models on a table set up by the gate. Remarking that they didn't seem to have many models to show for a whole afternoon's work, he was told that they had in fact made many more, but these had been sold to passers-by in aid of Toc H Funds. The sum of fourteen shillings having been handed over to a speechless father, he is now convinced that perhaps Toc H is making an impact on the younger generation after all!

SURREY

from L. R. Rendle

ASHTED Branch celebrated its 25th Birthday in November, and well over 100 members and friends from LEATHERHEAD, EPSOM, DORKING, TOLWORTH, MITCHAM, WEYBRIDGE and CRANLEIGH attended the Service of Thanksgiving at which Harry Gell, a member of Central Executive, gave the address. A most successful party followed, with laughter the keynote. The Women's Association members, as usual, made a miracle of the refreshments.

DOR KNAP

from George and Dorothy Atkinson

It is now over a year since we came to Dor Knap, and a happy and busy summer season is ended. Dor Knap looked so lovely that we almost felt sorry to go on holiday, but we left an energetic East Midlands party in the capable hands of Charles and Kate Young and enjoyed our tour of Wales.

The chapel now has a charming belfry roofed with Cotswold tiles, built by St. John's, Worcester, and paid for by the Manchester Area. Also the Wulfrun District have made a splendid job of partitioning off the kitchen so that there is free access to the back door without invading cook's privacy.

We should like to record all the people who give so generously service and gifts to Dor Knap but that is impossible. In the coming year we hope to see many old friends and more new ones.

WEST MIDLANDS

from Trevor Howard and Paul

Here are two extracts from accounts, printed as written, by two of the twenty-four boy campers sent by SOUTH BIRMINGHAM District, in conjunction with the NORTH COTSWOLDS District, to CHIPPING CAMPDEN, where the local Branch did a splendid job this summer in running a camp for them.

I think the best and interesting things that occurred on the camp were two scavenger and rable. The first one we had to find things out about Chipping Campden town, such as when was the police station built. There was a certain marking over a house, which was about the hardest question on the paper. One off the easiest questions was to find the telephone kiosk number on the corner of "Sheep Street". The frightful question was to get Charlie Ladbrooke's signature. I was told by local Camp lads that Charlie Ladbrooke was a Pea Picker. His house took some finding. It had boards nailed up to the windows. We went down the porch and there he was eating pilchard with mustard. He seemed a nice man and gave us his signature very willing. The other hunt was more fun. We had to get an hand bell. This was very hard but we got one from a kind lady. Another thing we had to get was a back bike wheel. We asked a Camp boy to bring his bike up to the camp so we could have his back wheel. Their were lots of other things to get and I am sure all the boys in the camp enjoyed every minute off it.

* * * *

The day was drawing to its close, the sun had just set and the moon just about to rise when there was felt a slight breeze. The sky was growing darker, no stars could be seen because a stream of endless dark clouds drifted over head. Supper was just over when the winds began to rise to find their full power. Our tents began to blow like rags on a line. In side we all wondered if our tent was to be sent in to orbit. Instead of our nice warm atmosphere in side it turned out to be like a wind tunnel. The tent poles rocked like thin stripes of wood instead of thick poles. As the lights went out we crawled in to our primitive beds. The flaps of the tent blew like canvas on a ship. I sometimes wondered if we were in a ship's rigging. But for all of this I spent the best night I had ever done there.



Skegg Blanchard

Part of the Toc H contingent at the Remembrance Day parade in London.

MARCHES

from T. Romanis

After a lapse of ten years the Division welcomed a return visit of Iain Fraser. His three-day visit was a busy one with Guest-nights at WEM, LLANGOLLEN and finally the bestowal of the Lamp on the new Branch at EDMOND. The new Lamp has been given by Wellington Branch members in memory of the late Rev. Ralph Fitz-James Sawyer, a former Wellington Branch Padre.

Offa's Dyke District have a new outlook for service in the news that a Cheshire Home is to be established at Glynceriog, near Chirk.

A warm welcome is extended to Dewi Lloyd, a former member of the Central Executive, now living in the Division.

WESTERN

from Johnnie MacMillan

Alec Churcher had a very busy time in his few days in the Western Area. Get-togethers were arranged at BURNHAM-ON-SEA. Members from MILTON, WESTON-SUPER-MARE and PURITON, as well as the local Branch, all enjoyed the practical nature of Alec's talk, and many questions followed. At BRISTOL, members from a number of Branches, with quite a few guests, welcomed the opportunity of discussing with Alec matters affecting the Family of Toc H today and in the future. The guests and general members have requested a meeting at the Area Centre once a month to keep them in touch and allow, it is hoped, many of them an opportunity of closer contact with the Family. At STROUD, members from CIRENCESTER, TETBURY and GLOUCESTER Branches all enjoyed the evening and the hot dogs were not the only lively event.

At CALNE, a very large gathering of members from CHIP PENHAM and SWINDON Districts, with guests and friends, voted it worth coming for Calne's Twenty-first Birthday, even though fog made travelling difficult. The fellowship, the food, the talk, all made for an excellent evening and Calne are to be complimented on a well organised event which will be long remembered.

SOUTHERN

from Harry Devis

The Isle of Wight is not very large or thickly populated, but there are five active Branches of Toc H there. The Area Padre paid three of these Branches a visit at the beginning of October and found them at full strength, cheerful and busy. He also visited COWES Branch a fortnight later and promised to come again as soon as they had new members to initiate. The District Team, which meets in Newport and sits down to a supper of fish and chips before getting to business, should now get busy to found new units of Toc H at Newport, Ventnor, Shanklin and Freshwater. That will give them plenty to do for the next twelve months.

Prison visiting is not everyone's cup of tea. A member in the Portsmouth district pays regular visits to Winchester Gaol, is actively interested in the new home for discharged prisoners in Portsmouth and visits the homes of men serving sentences. God bless him. No voluntary job of service requires greater courage and faith.

UPAVON welcomed NETHERTON and ANDOVER to a training day on October 22. Three full-timers did the job and the local padre brought the day to a fitting conclusion at Evensong in the parish church when he preached a sermon very much to the point. There were lively discussions on the themes 'Youth', 'Be of Good Cheer' and 'Fishers of Men'.

SCOTLAND

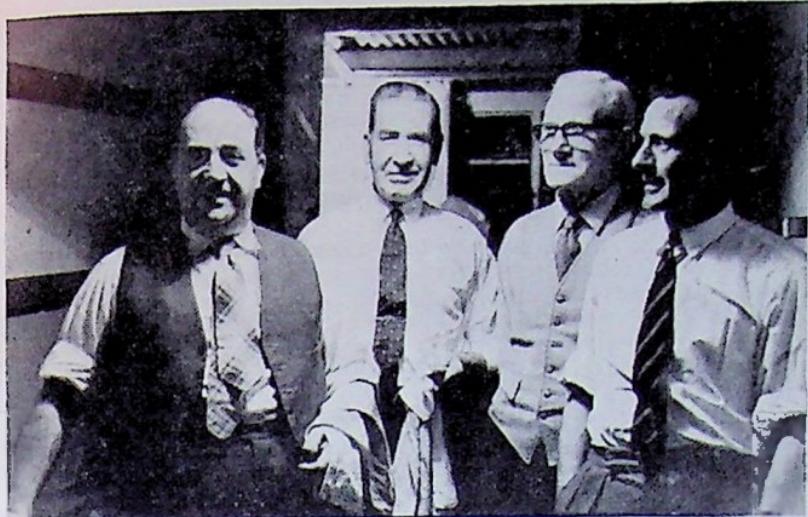
from Reg Stewart

NEILSTON Branch continue their service to old folk in the neighbourhood and have now installed no less than nine television sets which are permanently installed in the houses of elderly persons or others who are house-bound. In some cases the Branch pays for the licence, where the elderly people are in straitened circumstances. In addition, the Branch maintains a 'floating set' which is loaned to needy cases and a further set is kept as a 'stand-by' in case of mechanical breakdown. The work of maintaining sets in good condition costs approximately £100 per year and this money is found by the Branch. An attempt is being made to involve some younger people in this work.

A very successful Re-dedication Service was held at ALLOA when approximately 100 members and their friends took part in a Service at a local Church, being entertained later at the Branch Rooms to supper enlivened by the excellent singing of local artistes.

Members of the NAIRN Branches of Toc H and Toc H W.A. took part in an Old Folk's Week held at Elgin under the Chairmanship of the Lord Provost, Miss I. A. Duncan. Some thirty old folk from Nairn were escorted through to Elgin by members of the two Branches and enjoyed an afternoon of entertainment and an excellent meal.

The members of DUNFERMLINE Branch recently completed the conversion of a small dwelling house into new Branch Rooms which were opened on October 5 and dedicated by the Branch Padre, the Rev. W. L. Cunningham, M.A. The Guest Speaker of the evening was J. Lyndsay Orr, Hon. Area Treasurer, Glasgow, who took as his subject "What is Toc H worth to you?"



Stockton-on-Tees washing-up party.

NORTHERN

STOCKTON-ON-TEES Branch have successfully pioneered a Club for the physically handicapped in their town. At the club's first meeting, members of the Branch supplied and served refreshments for ninety folk and did the washing-up afterwards.

TYNESIDE and MID-NORTHUMBERLAND Districts held a combined District Team meeting at Mark XVIII. Business was kept to the minimum and was followed by a discussion on "Meetings and Programmes".

At a recent Guest-night held by RYTON Branch, at which Iain Fraser was the Speaker, a most welcome although unexpected guest was Les Lund, a member of Durban Branch, at present on holiday at his home-town of Wallsend.

BILLINGHAM-ON-TEES group, with the assistance of NORTH ORMESBY members, manned and maintained for two days a Toc H stall at their local show. RICHMONDSHIRE District held a gathering at CATIERICK VILLAGE which provided not only an opportunity to discuss the theme of "Fellowship", led by Padre Ron Smith, but also to experience it.

CARLIN HOW Branch members held a street collection in Loftus, in aid of BELRA and raised the sum of £11 10s. 0d. SUNDERLAND Branch are pioneering the formation of a Club for the Physically Handicapped in the town. An inaugural meeting will be held shortly. WEST HARTLEPOOL members, in the course of their Winter Programme, are taking lessons in the Deaf and Dumb Language under the guidance and tuition of one of their members. This will enable them to be really at home on their regular visits to the local Deaf and Dumb Club. DARLINGTON Branch run two Clubs, one held on Friday evenings for local lads and men and the other on Saturday afternoons for hospital patients.

from Charles Young

OXFORD & THAMES VALLEY

from Derick Parsons

It was the Sunday on which it had been arranged that the girls from Andrew Duncan Home for crippled girls should be taken on a visit to Kew Gardens. This, now almost a hardy annual, is a Toc H job in which HENLEY and RICHMOND (Surrey) Branches and their friends combine.

The rain fell—the coach, in good time and loaded with the "girls" and their helpers, left Henley. Proceeding along the A.4, the sky became even darker and it rained.

Reaching the rendezvous, the Lion Gate entrance to Kew Gardens well ahead of schedule, there was the green van loaded with wheel chairs borrowed from the nearby Star and Garter British Legion Home. There were some of the Richmond stalwarts ready to greet the visitors from Henley. It was raining . . .

With the thought that soon it might be fine, the coach driver kindly agreed to take the party for a tour of the district which included a brief call at Hampton Court. Over an hour later, back again at the Lion Gate and it still rained. What was to be done? Bill Bailey of Henley suggested calling on the local vicar, to see if the Church Hall could be borrowed. Within ten minutes he was back with the wonderful news that a lady who owned a local cafe (not open on Sundays) offered the use of her establishment with all equipment, saying that a wedding reception had been held there the day before, and would the food left over from the wedding feast be of any help?

While the lady helpers were preparing the tables, the girls were carried up to the room, and by this time the proprietor had returned with a tape recorder to provide music during the excellent meal. By three o'clock all had been cleared away—the girls loaded back on the coach. And still it rained! But no one worried for, after that heart-warming experience, all would surely be well.

A farewell to Richmond Branch, an inadequate expression of thanks to those Good Samaritans who own that cafe, and onwards with the idea of calling at London Airport. The idea became reality and, acquiring a guide, an interesting tour followed in spite of the poor visibility.

And so back home. The day had not turned out as planned—there had been anxious moments—but it had almost miraculously been transformed into an interesting and memorable occasion.

Toc H Diaries

While supplies last, make sure of securing your copy of the Toc H Diary for 1962. It contains much useful information, together with sixteen pages of coloured maps. The price is 4s. 6d. including postage, or 5s. 0d. fitted with pencil.

Journal Smalls Small Advertisements must be received (with remittance) by the first day of the month preceding publication. The charge is 6d. a word (minimum 6s.). Editorial Office: Toc H, 15 Trinity Square, London, E.C.3.

ITALIAN TOUR. A few vacant places on extra coach leaving London April 29. Details direct from Miss Elsa Perrin, Toc H Women's Assoc., Crutched Friars House, London, E.C.3.

FREEDOM FROM HUNGER. The Fund for Human Need, started two years ago, has collected over £20,000 for the hungry and needy, without regard for race, politics, colour or creed. Particulars from Hon. Secretary, 16 Wool Road, Wimbledon, S.W.20. (Toc H Builder.)

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